



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405  
(717) 787 3904  
FAX (717) 782 4011

# Pennsylvania Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **PENNSYLVANIA MARCH POTATO STOCKS**

**Harrisburg** -- Total stocks of potatoes stored in **Pennsylvania** on March 1, 2000, were 750,000 cwt., 7 percent more than a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Of this amount, 379,000 cwt. were stored in processor's facilities, 51 percent of the total stocks.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Stocks may also include potatoes produced in other states. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past five years averaged 90.7 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.3 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand but remains as part of stocks until planted.

Storage of fall potatoes in the **15 major states** totaled 170 million cwt., down 2 percent from a year earlier and 3 percent below two years ago. Storage on March 1 accounted for 40 percent of fall production, down 1 percent from last year. Disappearance, at 251 million cwt., is slightly above last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss totaled 25.7 million cwt., 1 percent more than a year ago and 20 percent above two years ago.

Processing usage in the 8 major processing states totaled 126 million cwt. so far this season, down 2 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago.